

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 AGRE-00 STR-07 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02

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-----029193 060658Z /10

R 051916Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6420

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

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E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: EEC, ETRD

SUBJECT: EC DIRECTIVE ON STANDARDS OF FILL FOR CONTAINERS
OF LIQUID PRODUCTS

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 7323, (B) LONDON 6902

1. MISSION OFFICERS FOLLOWED UP DEMARCHE ON LIQUID CONTAINERS (REF A) IN SEPARATE MEETINGS RECENTLY WITH FAURE (DG III) AND KRENZLER (DG I).
2. FAURE SAID THAT SO FAR NO MEMBER STATE HAS EXPRESSED TO THE COMMISSION A DESIRE TO RETAIN THE COLUMN II SIZES FOR BEER OR FRUIT JUICE CONTAINERS OF INTEREST TO THE U.S. NOR HAS ANY SUCH INTEREST BEEN EXPRESSED IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE OR IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. FAURE ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH BREWER AND CANNER TRADE ASSOCIATIONS ABOUT U.S. CONCERNS AND COULD NOT FIND ANY SUPPORT FROM THESE QUARTERS FOR MOVING COLUMN II SIZES OF INTEREST TO U.S. INDUSTRY INTO COLUMN I. FAURE SAID THAT WHILE HE COULD UNDERSTAND THE TRADE-RELATED U.S. CONCERNS, THE COUNCIL, WHEN IT ADOPTED THE DIRECTIVE IN 1975, GAVE THE COMMISSION A MANDATE TO ELIMINATE SIZES WHICH WERE TOO CLOSE TO EACH OTHER AND WHICH COULD MISLEAD THE CONSUMER.

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HE NONETHELESS PROMISED TO RAISE THE ISSUE AGAIN WHEN THE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP MEETS TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

3. IN A SEPARATE MEETING KRENZLER (U.S. DESK) SAID THAT COMMISSION WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSULT ON THIS ISSUE AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL IF THE U.S. FEELS THAT THE ISSUES INVOLVED ARE OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE THAT THEY MIGHT

THREATEN TO BECOME A PROBLEM.

4. RECOMMENDATION: MISSION BELIEVES THAT PRIOR TO ANY CONSULTATIONS ON THIS MATTER WITH THE EC COMMISSION, U.S. SHOULD APPROACH MEMBER STATE CAPITALS SEEKING ASSURANCES THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO ALLOW IMPORTS OF THE VARIOUS SIZES OF INTEREST TO U.S. INDUSTRY SIMILAR TO THE ASSURANCES GIVEN BY THE UK FOR THE .35 LITER BEER SIZE.(REF (EVEN IF THE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED WITHOUT THE DESIRED CHANGES, MEMBER STATES RETAIN THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THESE SIZES AFTER 1980.) DEPENDING ON THE RESULTS OF THESE EFFORTS THE USG CAN THEN DECIDE WHETHER TO REQUEST A CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSION. HINTON

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Message Attributes

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